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PATENT
Customer Number 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 4329.2460

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Masakazu HATTORI et al.) Group Art Unit: Unknown
)
Application No.: 09/714,627) Examiner: Unknown
)
Filed: November 17, 2000)
)
For: STRUCTURED DOCUMENT)
SEARCH METHOD,)
STRUCTURED DOCUMENT)
SEARCH APPARATUS AND)
STRUCTURED DOCUMENT)
SEARCH SYSTEM)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents.

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1. Japanese published application No. 6-203078 discloses an information retrieval system which contains a query processing module. Structure data and the index are stored in RDB.

2. Japanese published application No. 6-301721 discloses a text search engine (for SGML Doc) which contains a query processing module. Query data is compiled to SQL data.

3. Japanese published application No. 11-15843 discloses a SGML document search apparatus which document structures (or DTD) must be defined in advance. Only simple structure is allowed, which is caused by converting documents into relational database.

Also enclosed are English abstracts of Japanese published application Nos. 6-203078, 6-301721, and 11-15843.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 20, 2001

By: 

Richard V. Burgujian
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